THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Survey work for the new railway lines

†4772. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new railway lines for which proposals of carrying out survey work have been included in the Railway Budget of 2004-05;

(b) the time-frame fixed for completing survey work for the said new railway lines;

(c) the criteria fixed for sanctioning new railway lines after completion of the survey work;

(d) State-wise figures regarding railway network in the country; and

(e) position of Rajasthan regarding railway network as compared to that of other States and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) 41 Survey for New Lines have been included in the Budget 2004-05. All the Surveys are targeted for completion during 2005-06.

(c) The policy for taking up new line projects was enunciated by the National Transport Policy Committee in 1980. This policy states that new lines would be taken up on the following criteria:

(i) Project oriented lines to serve new industries for tapping mineral and other resources;

(ii) Missing links for completing alternative routes;

(iii) Lines required for strategic reasons; and

(iv) Lines for establishment of new growth centres or giving access to remote areas.

Apart from this, the financial viability of the project is also taken into consideration. As per extant norms, a project is considered financially justified if it yields a return of not less than 14% under Discounted Cash Flow Method.

(d) and (e) State-wise route Kms. of Railway lines at the end of 2003-04 is given in Railways Year Book 2003-04.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.